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SUBJECT: MARRIOTT ENTERS THE OMANI MARKET

(U) On October 20, English daily "Times of Oman" reported that Washington-based Marriott International, Inc., signed a contract with state-owned Dhofar Tourism Company, to manage the five-star, 234-room Salalah Beach Marriott Resort. The resort is located approximately 75 kilometers from Salalah in Mirbat and is scheduled to open in December 2009. Oman hopes to develop its tourism industry, particularly for high-end tourists and this resort fits into the Omani plan.

Schmierer